What is claimed is:

1. A compression-type chain for transmission of power from a driving sprocket having teeth to a driven sprocket having teeth, comprising:

a) a plurality of sprocket-engaging blocks (4) having a body with a sides and a thickness therebetween, an upper surface, and teeth opposite the upper surface, adapted to engage with the teeth of the driving sprocket and the teeth of the driven sprocket;

b) a plurality of guide links (5), each guide link having a body with a thickness, a top surface, a bottom surface, a leading end and a trailing end;

each guide link being movably fastened in pairs on opposite sides of the sprocket-engaging blocks to two adjoining sprocket-engaging blocks, the guide link being dimensioned so that when the guide links and sprocket-engaging blocks are assembled, the top surfaces of the guide links project further than the top surfaces of the sprocket-engaging blocks, forming rails defining a trough therebetween;

all of the guide links and sprocket-engaging blocks fastened together forming a continuous chain; and

c) a retaining band (10) running around the chain in the trough, contacting the upper surface of the sprocket engaging blocks;

so that when the chain is engaged with the driven sprocket and the driving sprocket, and rotational force is applied to the driven sprocket, the force is transferred by the teeth of the driving sprocket to the sprocket-engaging blocks engaged with the driving sprocket, then to the guide links fastened to the sprocket-engaging blocks, and the leading edge of each guide link between the driving sprocket and the driven sprocket transfers force to the trailing end of the next

guide link, until the force is transferred to the sprocket-engaging blocks engaged with the driven sprocket, and thence as a rotational force to the driven sprocket.

2. The chain of claim 1, in which the guide links are fastened together around the sprocket-engaging blocks by pins running through holes in the guide links and the sprocket-engaging blocks.

3. The chain of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of pins running between the pairs of guide links in the trough, retaining the band therein.

4. The chain of claim 1, in which the retaining band comprises a plurality of laminations of steel band.

5. The chain of claim 1, in which the retaining band is made of a polymer.

6. The chain of claim 1, in which the leading end and trailing end of the guide links are substantially flat.

7. The chain of claim 1, in which the guide link comprises a tapered area forming a lower part of the leading end and trailing end, to provide clearance as the chain wraps around the sprockets.